



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



Bulletin

International

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

January 2010
Volume 6, Number 1



Table of Contents In this Issue

New Zealand, Canada Discuss Research.....	1
Russia Looks to AAFC for Research Opportunities.....	2
Canada on the Radar in China.....	2
Canada-China Cooperation Brings Mutual Benefits.....	3
AAFC and INIA Join Forces on Mycorrhizal Inoculum Research.....	4
Access2Canada : A Benchmarking Workshop to Strengthen Cooperation with Canada.....	5

For more information please visit:



New Zealand, Canada Discuss Research

The Associate Deputy Minister Andrea Lyon hosted a delegation from New Zealand in Ottawa on November 24th, 2009. Visiting were Mr. Stuart Boag, Senior Advisor from the Office of the Honorable Wayne Mapp, Minister for Research, Science and Technology and Minister of Defence, Ms. Lesley McConnell, Science and Technology Counsellor for USA and Canada and Mr. Koro Dickinson, Second Secretary of New Zealand High Commission. Representing Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) were Dr. Marc Fortin, Assistant Deputy Minister of Research, Mr. Jamshed Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agri-Environment Services, and Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International Scientific Cooperation Bureau.

Discussions focused on the evolution of science policy in New Zealand and Canada, the interface

with universities and industries, the interaction of government priorities with research directions, the role of science as a driver for economic growth and the importance of land, water and environmental research. New Zealand is particularly interested in food processing research related to milk and meat products as well as animal health using the twinning concept ().



Lesley McConnell, Andrea Lyon, Koro Dickinson, Stuart Boag and Marc Fortin

Canada



Russia Looks to AAFC for Research Opportunities

A delegation from Russia including Deputy Minister of Agriculture Dr. Alexander Ivanovich Belyaev, Deputy Director of Livestock Department Denis Cherkesov and Senior Specialist Yulia Surovtseva visited AAFC in November 2009. They were interested in AAFC's different activities including the Research Branch.

Russia and Canada have a long history of agricultural research exchange. The areas of interests identified for possible cooperation have evolved over time. Current topics include exchanges of germplasm as well as livestock, potatoes and bioproducts research. Like Canada, Russia has a large agricultural land-base and is building up its agriculture capacity by importing genetic material for such commodities as cattle. Canada, with its developed industry, could provide technology and expertise to support trade initiatives.



Yvon Martel and Alexander Ivanovich Belyaev

Canada on the Radar in China

From November 1st to 5th, 2009, a Canadian delegation of about 40 representatives from industry, university, provincial and federal governments participated in the 16th China Agricultural High-Tech Fair and in the International Cooperation Week in Yangling, Shaanxi Province (杨凌). Dr. Marc Fortin, Assistant Deputy Minister of Research at AAFC, spoke at the opening ceremony and gave a keynote speech at the International Agricultural Summit.

Dr. Fortin also participated with Stacy Chew, Country Manager for China at International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTP Canada), and Les Abelson, Operation Manager of the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF), at the launch of the Canada-China-Israel Three-Way Call for Proposals for collaborative R&D projects in agriculture and agri-food. Up to \$300,000 will be provided from each of the three countries, to a maximum of 50% of each country's project cost, with one industry per country to lead the project. The deadline for submitting expressions of interest is March 1st, 2010. For additional information about the call for proposals, please visit:

www.international-science.ca/canada-china-israel/three-way-call-for-proposals

This year in Yangling, some 19 countries took part in fair events including the three-day Agri-Science Forum held at the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NWA&FU) on the theme of agriculture and rural development. These events provided Canadian universities and AAFC scientists with opportunities to promote Canadian research achievements and to network with counterparts in China and other countries. During the international week, Canadian delegates visited the Yangling Modern Agricultural Demonstration Parl. for international cooperation, presented seminars and held fruitful meetings with their counterparts.

One key event for the delegation was the Joint Canada-China Workshop on Dairy Production and Food Processing. Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Laiwu Zhang and AAFC's Marc Fortin opened the workshop. It was an opportunity for industries and academics of both countries to learn about each other's best practices and innovative approaches. The program and the abstracts are available upon request.

Contact : Shan He



Canadian delegation at the opening of the 16th China Agriculture High-Tech Fair in Yangling



Launch of the Canada-China-Israel Call for research proposals



Keynote speakers at the International Summit in Agriculture



Canada-China Cooperation Brings Mutual Benefits

Last August, a Chinese student, Xianglan Li, co-supervised by two Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientists, was the winner of two awards at the Canadian Society of Soil Science 2009 Annual Meeting in Guelph, namely the Travel Award and the President Award (first place, scientific poster). As part of the 2009 MOE-AAFC Ph.D. Research Program, the Soils and Crops Research and Development Centre in Quebec hosted Xianglan Li from the State Key Laboratory of Soil and Sustainable Agriculture (Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Science, Nanjing). Under the scientific supervision of Drs. Noura Ziadi and Gilles Bélanger, Xianglan Li has contributed to research on the effect of nitrogen fertilisation and soil properties on the accumulation of cadmium in bread wheat and grain corn.

Dr. Ziadi began her collaboration with China in 2007 when she hosted her first graduate student, Jian-Lang Fan. In June 2009, she was invited by the Chinese Academy of Science to attend Jian-Lang's Ph.D. thesis defence and to deliver courses to graduate students at Nanjing and Beijing. Jian-Lang is now associate professor at the Institute of Soil Science of the Chinese Academy of Science in Nanjing.

Both Jian-Lang and Xianglan quickly fit into the research team. They were able to take part in the exchange while conducting projects started by Dr. Ziadi. The research done by Jian-Lang and Xianglan has resulted in four scientific communications and four scientific papers. Drs. Ziadi and Belanger are very proud of this collaboration. They note that they had the opportunity to help train young scientists while achieving the objectives of their research program.



Noura Ziadi, Xianglan Li and Gilles Bélanger



AAFC and INIA Join Forces in Mycorrhizal Inoculum Research

A Chilean delegation composed of Mr. Hector Vera, Scientific & Educational Attaché, Embassy of Chile in Canada, Mr. Teodoro Rivas, Head Advisor, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Juan Hirzel, Research Scientist, Chilean Agricultural Research Institute, INIA-Chillán, visited AAFC Ottawa Headquarters as well as research centres in Ottawa, Brandon Manitoba, and Saskatoon in July 2009. The intent was to develop further research proposals in relation to mycorrhizal inoculum and learn about the strategic approach of Chile to become a "Food World Power". The delegation, welcomed by Chief Scientist, International Affairs Dr. Yvon Martel, took part in a series of meetings with Market and Industry Services Branch, Agri-Environment Services Branch and the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency.

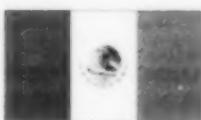
At the Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre in Ottawa, the delegation met with Dr. Marc Savard, Research Manager, and scientists Steve Gleddie, Carlos Monreal and Yolande Dalpé. Mr. Rivas also visited Saskatoon where he was met by the acting Research Manager Sue Boyetchko.

Brandon was a critical stop on their journey. Meetings were held at the Brandon Research Centre to prepare a proposal on mycorrhizal inoculum that is going to be submitted to Chile for funding. Participants from AAFC were Drs. Jean-Pierre Privé (A/Science Director), Fernando Selles (Research Manager), Debbie McLaren (Plant Pathologist) and Marcia Monreal (Soil Microbiologist). Mr. Arturo Gardeweg, Manager - Agribusiness at the Department of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade (ETT) of Manitoba, also joined the meeting. Since then, Dr. Marcia Monreal went to Chile and ETT has confirmed their involvement into the project.

The representatives of the Chilean Embassy in Canada are very pleased by the results and are planning to reiterate the experience with other Chilean managers and scientists as they see this as a good approach to facilitate the development of joint research proposals in areas of mutual interest.



Debbie McLaren, Jean-Pierre Privé, Fernando Selles, Teodoro Rivas, Marcia Monreal, Juan Hirzel, Hector Vera and Arturo Gardeweg



Potato news with appeal

The 6th Canada-Mexico Interparliamentary Meeting (IPM) led by the Honourable Noel A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada, was held in Saint John, New Brunswick, in November 2009. The meeting brought parliamentarians together to promote dialogue between the Canadian and Mexican parliaments and to discuss issues of mutual interest. The IPM brought approximately 70 parliamentarians, staff, experts and media to Saint John.

The IPM touched upon agriculture and agri-food to explore recent technological advancements and the possibility for information sharing and capacity building between Canada and Mexico. Speaker Kinsella, who has a keen interest in the work of the AAFC Potato Research Centre, asked Dr. Jacques Millette, Research Manager, to give an overview of potato research at the centre. The Mexican delegation is interested in how N.B. potatoes can be grown in different areas of Mexico. On display were coloured potatoes and biodegradable and compostable plastic items like golf tees, planting pots and a green Frisbee made from potato starch reclaimed from the food processing industry.

See the following link for a related article in the Telegraph Journal in Saint John:



Jacques Millette, showing Mr. Carlos Navarrete Ruiz, President of the Senate of United Mexican States, bioplastic items made from potato starch



Access2Canada : A Benchmarking workshop to strengthen cooperation with Canada

Access2 Canada was launched in Rome on October 1st 2009. This bilateral project funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme is co-ordinated by the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE). APRE is a non-profit organization based in Italy that provides information, assistance and training to promote participation in European Research and Technological Development Programmes.

The project is in cooperation with the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt (DLR), Germany and the Institut Pasteur in France. On the Canadian side, the project work packages will be conducted by Messrs. Peter Eggleton, Telligence Group, Frank Deeg.

International Commerce Associates and Garth Williams, Public Knowledge Canada. The project objective is to strengthen and increase cooperation in science and technology between Canada and the European Union by identifying and promoting the opportunities for European researchers to participate in Canadian research and innovation programs.

The benchmarking workshop held in Ottawa on December 7th 2009 was the first initiative held in Canada under this project. Nearly 30 participants from the European Union representations in Canada and Canadian science based departments and agencies attended the session to exchange information on opportunities for cooperation between Canada and European Union member states. It is anticipated that the project will reinforce the current bilateral S&T agreement between Canada and the European Union, raise the profile of Canadian scientists and their organizations, and increase the participation of European researchers in Canadian research and information programs.

Contact in Canada: Garth Williams

www.international-commerce.ca

Contact in Europe: Ben Kubbinga

www.apre.it

